



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, September 14, 2000

WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN ADDITIONAL BIRD

A dead bird found in the Town of Greece has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The bird, a hawk, was found on Edgemere Drive near Dewey Avenue.

“As I have said before, additional positive bird tests continue to reaffirm our belief that West Nile Virus is present throughout all of Monroe County,” said Health Director Dr. Andrew Doniger. “This latest finding underscores the need for continued use of preventive measures, including the use of insect repellents and the draining of standing water in residential areas.”

The Monroe County Health Department will immediately undertake a number of actions, including:

- Initiate a mosquito larvicide program within an approximate 2-mile radius of where the bird was found
- Work with town officials to survey the area within the 2-mile radius to eliminate standing water
- Increase mosquito collection and testing in affected area
- A comprehensive brochure on WNV has been mailed to every household in Monroe County

Health officials urge the public, particularly people over the age of 50, to exercise caution, but stress that less than 1% of people infected with WNV will have symptoms serious enough to require hospitalization. The vast majority of people fully recover from the illness. WNV is rarely fatal except for people who are otherwise at very high-risk due to other health problems.

West Nile Virus is a viral infection that is transmitted by mosquitoes. Most people will experience no symptoms, or will have mild flu-like symptoms such as a slight fever, headache or body aches. In the most serious cases, infection can result in encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. It usually takes between 5-15 days for symptoms to develop. There is no specific treatment or vaccine for WNV.

--MORE--

The Monroe County Health Department has received the required permits from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to apply larvicide to bodies of water not easily drained.

The Health Department published a notice in the Democrat and Chronicle several weeks ago, stating its intention to apply larvicides in conformance with the permits. Those permits require an additional 48-hour notice of intent to apply the larvicide in specific areas. That notice, for the following area (an approximate 2-mile radius surrounding the sites where the birds were found), is given today by the publication of this and other news releases:

Larvicide Area: the area bounded by Lake Ontario on the north, Denise Road on the south, the Genesee River on the east and Kirk Road on the west.

A 24-hour information line has been established and will be updated regularly. The number is **234-9600**. Extensive information on WNV is available at the Monroe County Web site: www.co.monroe.ny.us/health.

###

For More Information:
Communications and Special Events, 428-2380,
Or see us on the web at *www.co.monroe.ny.us*